

# FOGLAND BEACH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

## Regular Meeting Minutes 14 February 2007

Members present: T. Ramotowski (Chairman, Conservation Commission), S. Carr (Harbor Management Commission), D. Webster (Director of Public Works) and G. Steckman (Town Administrator).

Members absent: and D. Merriman (Neighborhood Representative), J. Cook (Recreation Commission) M. Van Hof (Open Space Commission).

Also present: W. Randall

Chairman Ramotowski called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM at the Tiverton Community Center, 346 Judson Street.

### **I. Public Delegations**

Mr. Randall stated that he had lived in the Fogland neighborhood for a long time and was concerned that the beach was eroding away. Recently, storms had placed a large amount of sand on the paved roadway, and machinery had been used to remove the sand, and also to flatten and re-contour the beach. Mr. Randall suggested that the Town install some kind of fencing to stop the erosion of sand from Fogland Beach.

Chairman Ramotowski stated that the Oversight Committee shared Mr. Randall's concerns about the loss of beach sand. This is one of the many issues that will be addressed in the long-term management plan for Fogland Beach that the Committee hopes to develop in the near future if the necessary funding is received.

Mr. Randall asked if the paved roadway at Fogland, Three Rod Way, had been found by the Town to be located in a different position than it should be – similar to Shore Road. Mr. Webster stated that there were possibly similar concerns with portions of Three Rod Way, but an exact survey has not been performed. There are several roads in the Shore Road neighborhood that may not have been built in the proper locations. The Town is looking into abandoning the roadways in question as Town Roads to possibly provide relief to the affected residents. Mr. Carr cautioned against abandoning public right-of-ways located near the shoreline. The Harbor Commission has been working hard over the past several years to preserve public accessways to the water. Over the years, there has been a significant amount of private encroachment on these public right-of-ways. Even the State of Rhode Island – through the CRMC – is interested in this issue.

### **II. Administrative Matters**

- **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Webster made a motion to approve the minutes of the 13 December 2006 regular meeting as submitted. Seconded by Chairman Ramotowski.

VOTE: Motion passed 2-1-1 (Mr. Carr opposed; Mr. Steckman abstained).

- **Miscellaneous Correspondence**

Chairman Ramotowski noted that a letter detailing the Committee's meeting dates for 2007 had been prepared and sent to the Town Clerk in compliance with the State's Open Meeting laws.

### **III. Removal and Ultimate Disposition of Sand from Fogland Point Road**

Mr. Webster reported that he had dropped off a maintenance certification request at CRMC's main office this morning. The request covers the removal of sand and debris from the roadway, and includes a request to spread out any such material removed from the road onto the beach above the high tide line. Mr. Webster distributed copies of the maintenance request to the Committee members. The request would allow removal of accumulated material once in the spring, once in the fall, and "as-needed" after major storm events.

Mr. Webster stated that he had spoken to D. Reese of the CRMC about the maintenance request. Mr. Reese had indicated that the Town could request up to a 10-year timeframe for the request to be valid and in-force. The CRMC will review the application and will specify the conditions the Town will need to abide by for the removal and ultimate disposition of the sand collected from the roadway.

Chairman Ramotowski noted that the conditions imposed upon the Town for removal of material from the roadway will need to be incorporated into the long-term management plan for Fogland Beach.

Mr. Randall asked if the maintenance agreement also addressed fixing the problem of water ponding on the road after storms. Mr. Webster stated that it did not; fixing that problem would require major work, and would need a formal CRMC permit, not a maintenance agreement. That situation is similar to the large potholes present on the unpaved road that leads to the windsurfer beach. These are not easy problems to fix, and would require significant amounts of earth-moving and fill.

### **IV Committee Member Reports**

- **Town Administrator**

Mr. Steckman reported that the \$15,000.00 line item for the map/survey for Fogland was still in the 2007-2008 Town Budget. The Budget Committee had expressed some concern about this line item, given the budget problems the Town is facing next year, but for the moment, it was provisionally approved.

- **Director of Public Works**

Mr. Webster stated that he had asked the DPW foreman about the large puddles and potholes on the unpaved road that leads to the windsurfer beach. Apparently, the Town had never maintained that road in the past. Mr. Webster stated that he was concerned about the condition of the road, and that it would be prudent for the Town to erect a warning sign. Mr. Steckman that a warning sign should be put up. Mr. Randall stated that there was an existing pole on the left side of the road to which the sign could be attached. Mr. Webster stated that the pole was on the wrong side of the road for warning on-coming traffic, but he would attach a warning sign to it. The sign will read: Pass at your own risk.”

- **Neighborhood Representative**

There was no report.

- **Recreation Commission**

Mr. Steckman reported that the Recreation Commission had proposed some beach fee increases to the Town Council. Fees will be increased for vehicles with trailers and for large vehicles like RVs.

Mr. Steckman stated that the wording on the signs for all the Town recreation areas are being finalized. The sign for Fogland will probably be attached to the side of the attendant’s shack, rather than being a free-standing sign. Chairman Ramotowski asked what the final decision had been on the wording for the sign concerning camping and fires. Mr. Steckman stated that the wording was still under review.

- **Conservation Commission**

Chairman Ramotowski noted that the Conservation Commission had sent a letter dated January 10, 2007 to RI-DEM expressing concerns about the ISDS application of L. Nogueira for lot 20, map 1-3, block 185 off of Three Rod Way. The lot in question directly abuts Town-owned property at Fogland – part of the western salt marsh near the windsurfer beach. A copy of the letter was included in the Committee member’s information packets for this meeting. RI-DEM is still awaiting additional information and revised plans from the applicant.

- **Open Space Commission**

There was no report.

- **Harbor Commission**

Mr. Carr stated that he had called RI-DEM to see who was responsible for cleaning the sand and debris from the boat ramp near Fogland. There has been no return call as of yet. Last fall, the Town's DPW had to clean up the ramp. Mr. Webster stated that actually, the DPW has had to clean it up twice in the past year. Mr. Carr suggested that a barrier wall on the south side of the ramp might keep debris from accumulating on the ramp. The Town should ask RI-DEM to construct such a wall.

Mr. Carr stated that there is interest from the State in planting more eel grass in the Bay. The Harbor Commission will look for a boat that could be used to support eel grass planting efforts. Right now, the Harbor Master's boat is not available. Mr. Steckman stated that the Harbor Master's boat was available and could be in the water in 30 minutes in the event of an emergency.

## **V. Progress Towards Common Goals**

### **• Detailed Map/Survey of Town-Owned Property at Fogland**

#### **➤ FY 06-07 Budget Request**

Chairman Ramotowski noted that, as previously stated by Mr. Steckman, the Budget Committee had reviewed the Oversight Committee's request for funds for the Fogland map/survey, and had given "provisional approval", even though some members had expressed concern about spending money on such items given the financial pressures on the Town.

### **• Long-Term Management Plan for Fogland Beach**

Chairman Ramotowski stated that he had been contacted RI-DEM and told that Dexter Miller was a contract employee who no longer worked for the State. Administration of the Fogland grant revert back to C. Murphy of RI-DEM. Chairman Ramotowski stated that he sent Ms. Murphy an electronic copy of the revised statement of work for the grant that had been prepared with the assistance of Mr. Miller.

## **VI. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, the February 14, 2007 meeting of the Fogland Oversight Committee adjourned at 5:55 PM.

These minutes were prepared by T. Ramotowski.